



US OFFICIALS ONLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

2.

5. "The vast majority of soldiers [redacted] was much dissatisfied with the service and with present conditions in Bulgaria. The main reason for grievances was too long service with the army. When, in the summer of 1952, an order was read about lengthening the service from 30 to 36 months, soldiers could not hide their dissatisfaction. Some of them cursed and openly complained because of this new regulation. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
6. "Another cause for dissatisfaction was the question of furloughs. According to regulations, each soldier was entitled to 30 days furlough during his military service. The CO of a regiment could grant such a furlough either at one time or give two furloughs of 15 days each, or three of 10 days each. Usually a soldier got a furlough only after two years of service. Everybody wanted to get it at the time of traditional feasts and holidays (Christmas, Easter, etc), but as a rule, in accordance with Communist tactics, the number of furloughs at such times were few as possible.
7. "The other reason for dissatisfaction was food, which was bad in quality and in insufficient quantities. Any soldier who had a family which could supply him with food parcels from home was not much affected, but those who had no family [redacted] suffered real hardship. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
8. "One was not allowed to mention food parcels, or hunger in letters as it was considered a betrayal of army secrets. Therefore, soldiers wrote about such things on holidays or informed their next of kin during visits. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
9. "However, the most important cause for dissatisfaction among soldiers was not their own fate but that of their parents, families and possessions. There are very few families which are better off since Sept 44 than they had been before, and only the sons of such families are serving the regime well and are satisfied. The vast majority of soldiers have at least some members of their families in prison or in forced labor camps, or have sustained and/or is sustaining great losses in personal property and possessions. Such soldiers, even if they are satisfied with their life in barracks are becoming more and more dissatisfied after receiving news from home.
10. "Generally the soldiers, like the whole Bulgarian population, believe that the present situation in Bulgaria will not last long, that the US and Britain will help the Bulgarian people to regain freedom and that everyone will be able to return to his own land and to his own property.
11. "The events in Korea made many people believe that a war would break out and Communism would be finished off for ever as had been the case with Hitlerism. Political officers never allowed anyone to mention the word 'war'. but they always talked about the danger threatening the country, that 'the enemy isn't asleep, it prepares for war and that Bulgaria must also prepare herself for war'.
12. "With the passage of time, life is getting harder. It's more and more difficult to live and there is no end in sight. [redacted] gradually falling into despair." [redacted] 50X1-HUM

-end-

US OFFICIALS ONLY  
CONFIDENTIAL